

THE NAUTILUS.

Vol. XXXIX

JANUARY, 1926.

No. 3

HELIX NEMORALIS L. IN LYNCHBURG, VA.

BY DR. A. E. ORTMANN

Collecting last summer on the Piedmont Plateau in Virginia, I spent several days in Lynchburg, Campbell Co., and discovered there, on Sept. 2, '25, a flourishing colony of the European *Helix nemoralis*. One of the known localities for this species is at Lexington, Rockbridge Co., Va., about 50 miles (by rail) farther up the James and North River valley. I collected it here myself on June 7, '12, in gardens and along the road that leads down to North River.

I have not been able to find any report concerning this Lynchburg colony, although Mr. S. C. Crawford, of the Zoology department of the University of Pittsburgh, who has been teaching at Lynchburg College, informed me that he collected this snail there about 1922. I publish this note chiefly with the view of possibly obtaining further information about this case: it may be a separate introduction; it may be a transplantation from Lexington (as it has been transplanted from Lexington to Knoxville, Tenn.); or we may have here a natural dispersal from Lexington down the river-valley. But probably this latter case is out of the question.

Mr. Crawford found his specimens on the campus of the College (valley of Blackwater Creek), northwest of the town. My

locality is in the valley of Ivy Creek, falling into James River in Lynchburg, and forming a deep ravine, which is spanned by a bridge connecting Main St. and Rivermont Ave. In the ravine are the tracks of the Norfolk and Western R. R. running close to steep, in part vertical, bluffs of gneiss, facing the north. The bluffs are largely covered with a vegetation of various trees, and, at the base, with tall weeds. They are more or less damp on account of a number of springs, the water trickling down at many places.

Helix nemoralis lives here, right under the bridge, and some distance up and down along the railroad, among the weeds, and preferably in crevices and nooks of the damp rocks. Many dead shells are found in the narrow ditch along the railroad tracks. When on the rocks, the snails are rather conspicuous on account of their bright colors. I have seen over a hundred living specimens, but unfortunately comparatively few were mature: I secured about half a dozen with the peristome fully formed. The seven specimens at hand have the following banding formulas: 4 specimens: 12345; and one each with: 123(45), (12)3(45), 10345. They all have pale yellow ground-color and very dark-brown, almost black, bands. As a whole, they are strongly contrasted with my specimens from Lexington, which have lighter brown bands, and have more frequently one or more bands suppressed. The Lynchburg specimens are all of good size, but rather thin-shelled. On account of this, and to my dismay, a number of those collected (about two dozen) had been crushed when they arrived in Pittsburgh.

There was a number of native Gastropods associated with these snails. I collected the following: *Polygyra tridentata juxtidentens* Pils. rare; *P. albolabris* (Say), scarce; *P. appressa* (Say), abundant; *P. thyroides* (Say), rare; *P. thyroides bucculenta* (Gld.), fairly abundant; *Gastrodonta ligera* (Say), very abundant.